

issues

From: <nukenet-request@energyjustice.net>
To: <nukenet@energyjustice.net>
Sent: Sunday, May 20, 2007 12:01 AM
Subject: Nukenet Digest, Vol 831, Issue 1

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NukeNet Anti-Nuclear Network (nukenet@energyjustice.net)

Today's Topics:

1. Defunct Reactor Core Readied for Shipment FROM La Crosse, Wisconsin to South Carolina (Nukewatch)

 Message: 1
 Date: Sat, 19 May 2007 17:33:55 -0500
 From: Nukewatch <nukewatch@lakeland.ws>
 Subject: [NukeNet] Defunct Reactor Core Readied for Shipment FROM La Crosse, Wisconsin to South Carolina
 To: Gail Vaughn <vaughn.gail@uwlax.edu>
 Message-ID: <464F7B53.5050409@lakeland.ws>
 Content-Type: text/plain; charset="iso-8859-1"

Nukewatch
 P.O. Box 649, Luck, WI 54853
 May 19, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
 Contact Nukewatch office 715-472-4185, or mobile 715-491-3813

Defunct Reactor Core Readied for Shipment from

*La Crosse**, Wisconsin to South Carolina

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* *

LA CROSSE, Wisc. -- The long-defunct Genoa nuclear reactor core, closed in 1987 after operating only 20 years, has been removed from its containment structure here and loaded into a shipping canister in preparation for rail shipment to a shallow burial in Barnwell, South Carolina.

The 1,100-mile railroad journey could take the 310-ton radioactive cargo through major metropolitan areas including Dubuque, Iowa; Moline, Illinois; Evansville, Indiana; Nashville and Chattanooga, Tenn.; Atlanta, Georgia and Columbia, South Carolina.

The core, known as a reactor pressure vessel, is the innermost section of a nuclear power plant -- the heavy steel vessel used to contain the deadly uranium chain reaction that produces heat and radioactive waste in the generation of electricity. The unit is owned by Dairyland Power Cooperative (608-788-4000; Deb Mirasola, Manager, Corporate Communications, 608-787-1378, dwm@dairynet.com).

Removing the heavy reactor core required cutting a large opening through the steel-reinforced concrete containment structure and discarding the debris. "The waste concrete is sitting on the ground, covered only with black tarps," said Nukewatch staffer Boinnie Urfer who visited the site May 11.

According to Dairyland Power, the core has been filled with cement and encased in cement and steel, and, at approximately 310 tons, will require a special 20-axle rail car to ship.

The Barnwell South Carolina Radioactive Waste Facility is one of only a few commercial radioactive waste dumps in the country. It intends to close in June 2008.

The Genoa Boiling Water reactor's highly radioactive used fuel rods were long ago removed from the core and are stored in a seven-story-high cooling pool on the plant site, near the Mississippi river, in the flood plain.

At 3:00 p.m. Saturday, May 19, the core had already been inserted into the rail transport canister, placed on a over-sized flat bed semi-tractor trailer for transport to the rail car. Transfer to the rail car could take many hours before the cargo is ready for its trip to S. Carolina.

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NUKEWATCH
PO BOX 649

LUCK WI 54853
715-472-4185
www.nukewatch.com

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End of Nukenet Digest, Vol 831, Issue 1
